



Data:

We now have **253** high schools and ATCs registered for IT Academy in KY!

205 of those are registered Certiport testing sites.

48 of you need to contact Ann ASAP so you can certify your students.

Stay Connected:

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[Microsoft EduCast Webinar Series](#)

[KY's Certiport Web page](#)

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Recent training in Calloway County:



Training Opportunities:

There are two more training opportunities scheduled this fall. If you were not able to attend one of the events in August, I highly recommend you register for one of the following dates. We will be navigating the IT Academy website and exploring the resources it offers, as well as highlighting the importance of getting your Certiport testing lab set up so you can access the vouchers provided by the state.

Click on one of the following to register:

[**Oct. 29th in Lexington at Paul Dunbar High School from 4:30 – 6:30 pm**](#)

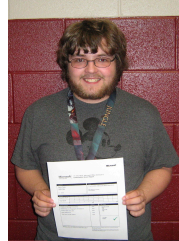
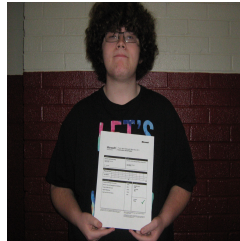
[**Nov. 11th in Union, KY at Larry A Ryle High School from 4:00 – 6:00 pm**](#)



Left: Marion Co. High School proudly displays their students' certifications.

Bottom left: Zachary Nalley from Marion Co. ATC, MOS certs in Excel, Word & PowerPoint

Bottom right: Dallan Raley from Marion Co. ATC, MOS certs in Excel, Word & PowerPoint



Monthly "Office Hours"

One Tuesday per month, 3:30 – 4:30 eastern, Microsoft, Certiport, and Laura will be on a Skype call for you to ask questions, get ideas, and collaborate. If you need access to the link to the call, please email Laura.

EXCEL FIRST

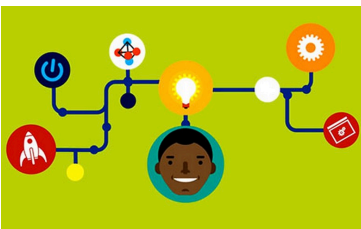
As the statewide initiative, we have pushed for schools to certify students in Excel first. If you have not done so yet, we ask that you make Excel your next unit of certification. The data surrounding this push will be used to determine your site's funding for next year.

Newsflash!

A great article and interview of Associate Commissioner David Couch and Senator David Givens in which they discussed the importance of technology in KY and the IT Academy can be found [here](#).

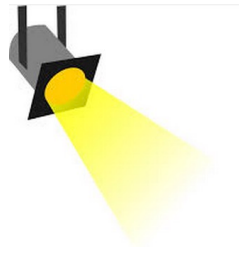


Code with NASA Science!

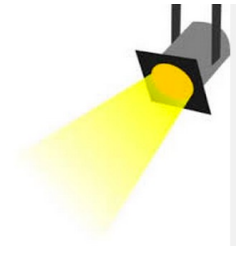


Microsoft and the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory have teamed up for an awesome new coding contest for students between the ages of 6 – 18 called Imagine Cup Earth! The new contest gives students a chance to code games, simulations and web apps using earth science data from the NASA JPL.

The contest has two skills levels – Beginner and Intermediate – so there's something cool for students with little to no coding experience and for those familiar with HTML5, CSS, JavaScript or Python. Students can win prizes totaling \$36,000, so help get them signed up for [Imagine Cup Earth](#) today!



Spotlight:



Russellville Area Technology Center

Story from Melissa Jones, teacher and Program Administrator at Russellville ATC:

The IT Academy has been a great addition to the IT program at the Russellville Area Technology Center. The online curriculum and video resources are well designed and easy to incorporate into my classroom. I use a lecture-based delivery with hands-on activities to engage students in the application of content they are learning and this works well. The videos are used to supplement the lecture and prepare the students to **participate** in the group and individual activities. Having the resources from the IT Academy has totally changed student engagement in my classroom.

The biggest difference that I see is that students voluntarily watch the videos and constantly tell how much they liked them and what they are learning from them. In the past when attempting to use videos the students would just play them as a background noise with little of their attention on the actual video. With the IT Academy, students feel a connection with the hosts. Willingham and Chapman conduct the videos in a way that students feel that they are speaking to them (not at them). I am seeing students who are sharing stories about personal experiences or how the content could fit into their personal lives more now than ever before. I believe this is due to the personal nature of the videos and the personal stories that Willingham and Chapman use in the videos to help connect the students in a real life way.

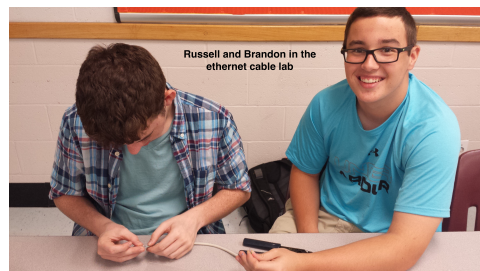
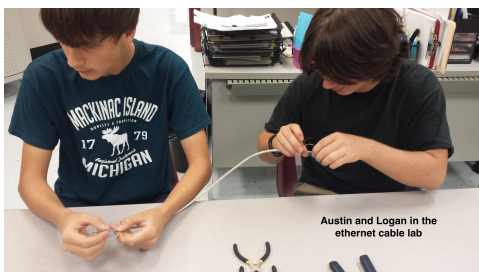
Some of her students' comments:

"Thomas is my favorite host in the videos. He is easy to understand but funny sometimes. I feel like they are talking to me and that they remember what it was like when they were learning and they consider that when talking about what I should learn. I like that they stop and look information up while they are filming the video." – *Russell Wilson*

"It is really easy to understand for the way that they put it. The class is pretty hands on which helps me. The videos are well edited which helps them to get the point across very clear. They convey their experience to the student with their own prior knowledge and that helps me to understand it better by seeing that if they can do it then I can do it too." – *Logan Long*

"The It Academy allows us to expand our knowledge about technology and networking. The hosts in the video will make quirky comments, which make learning more enjoyable." – *Brandon Johns*

"These videos really summarize the information we learn in class while hitting all of the key points. They are an excellent review source especially at home where you do not have the teacher there." – *Austin Coursey*



Computer Science Course

Microsoft has released a new computer science curriculum called [Creative Coding through Games and Apps](#), which is available for **free** to any educator who wants to use it. The curriculum is designed for students to learn to program and publish real apps and games in the early secondary grades. It includes all necessary materials for teacher prep, lesson presentation, and student assignments, homework and tests. Featuring online and in-class lessons that emphasize hands-on coding, the curriculum can be taught via any modern Web browser on phones, tablets, laptops or desktop computers. The curriculum length is flexible, requiring 6-, 9-, 12-, 18- weeks, or even a full year depending on the time available in a given school. And the combination of online plus in-class resources provides flexibility in teaching style, allowing educators to choose the right balance for their students of in-class instruction and out-of-class study.

As an IT Academy member, you can download the entire curriculum by navigating to the curriculum downloads section of the site and conducting a search for “creative coding”. Once you download the file, you will have full access to all the materials needed – and they are **FREE!**

The KVEC region, lead by Paul Green, began using the Creative Coding Through Games and Apps curriculum this semester. The course is called “Introduction to Computer Programming (110201). They are using a hybrid approach to deliver the curriculum with a combination of face-to-face, online, and virtual instruction. The co-op has 15 districts participating in the course, seven regional teachers, and a facilitator in each participating school building. This semester, they have 374 students enrolled but anticipate that to increase. They are creating a model that has gained a great deal of attention from Microsoft. If you have questions about how the KVEC region is conducting the hybrid course, you may contact Paul Green.

If you would like to learn how you could implement this program in your school, contact Laura.

Data Points for September:

The number of schools signed up for membership: 253

The number of registered testing centers: 205

The number of Excel certifications: 69

The number of MTA certifications: 59

The number of online courses started: 6,821

The number of online courses completed: 2,422

The top 10 certifying sites:

1. Dixie Heights High	6. Hart Co High
2. Breckinridge Co High	7. Marion Co ATC
3. Highlands High	8. Bath Co High
4. Elizabethtown Early College Career Center	9. Grayson Co High
5. Boone Co High	10. Logan Co High

Is your school listed here?

KY Listserv:

You all are collaborating VERY well on the listserv!! Thanks for all your great ideas and questions. This will help all of us become that much more effective across the state as we build the program. A special thanks and KUDOS goes to **Amanda Comstock at Bullitt East High School** for creating an Excel Skills Matrix for her students and then sharing it with us and to **Tara Tatum in Marion County** for sharing her Word and PowerPoint Skills Matrix. Resources like these will make a difference for everyone! If you need information on how you can be a part of the listserv, email Laura.

A special note from the Office of Career and Technical Education at KDE:

While ITA resources are strongly encouraged to be utilized in the appropriate Business and IT career pathways for CCR, they are not a stand-alone pathway.

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Academy on Twitter**
[@KYITAcademy](https://twitter.com/KYITAcademy)

KDE's [KY ITA Website](#)!

Check out the Microsoft Resources folder and the Certiport Resources folder...they both have lots of new "How To" documents that will help you navigate the new and improved IT Academy site. There is also a new webinar available: "[Webinar for the New IT Academy Website](#)" you may want to watch.

As always, if you need any assistance with your school's program, please reach out to Laura, Megan, or Ann. We are here to help make your year as successful as possible!